

THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) is a unique federal-state partnership that has worked since 1976 to protect, restore, and responsibly develop the nation's important and diverse coastal communities and resources.

The United States enjoys the beauty and bounty of coastlines bordered by the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico. Along these 95,000 miles of shoreline, vital and sometimes competing activities occur. These include transportation, trade, and energy production, scientific research and education, recreation and tourism, protection of historical and cultural artifacts and the habitats of many diverse coastal, land, lake, and marine creatures.

Almost half of the U.S. population live and work within this ecologically and economically important region; an area that covers only 11 percent of the country's land. Yet this 11 percent supports approximately 190 sea ports, contains most of our largest cities, and serves as nursery and spawning grounds for marine life. The health of our ocean and coastal lands are critical to the United States commercial and recreational fisheries, and to American families who turn to the coast for recreation in ever increasing numbers.

In 1972, Congress recognized the significance of the coastal zone, and responded to the threats to our coasts and oceans by passing the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), which established the CZM partnership. Over a quarter century later,

The Coastal Zone Management program is a proven partnership that continues to take a comprehensive approach in solving complex resource management problems. This requires balancing the often competing and conflicting demands of coastal resource use, economic development, and conservation, through an effective partnership among federal, state, and local governments strengthening the capabilities of each partner.

The Coastal Zone

CZMPs manage over 70,000 square miles of land and 100,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters and submerged lands:

- *A land area the equivalent of the states of CA, OR, WA, ID, NV, VT, AZ, AND NM — 22% of the land area of the 50 states*
- *Supports over 28.3 million jobs — about 34% of national employment*
- *Provides recreation to 94 million Americans each year*
- *Supports 70% of the nation's commercial and recreational fishing harvest*
- *Home to over 5,000 marinas supporting recreational boating, an industry that generated over \$17 billion in expenditures in 1996*
- *Accounts for approximately 20% of the nation's domestic petroleum production*

Coastal Pressures

- *Population Density of the coast is ten times greater than in inland areas and growing at a faster rate. It is projected that coastal population will increase by 27 million people between now and 2015*
- *Losses from coastal hazards continue to rise. FEMA estimates total assistance costs for 1998 hurricanes/tropical storms alone will amount to \$2.25 billion*
- *Approximately 50% of coastal wetlands have been lost since human habitation of North America*
- *In 1991, over 2,000 miles of beaches were closed to swimming due to water quality problems. A survey conducted in 1998 showed that out of 1,000 beaches, more than 350 had an advisory or closure*

Resources for Coastal Management

The national CZM program operated in 1999 with a budget of approximately \$80 million of federal and state matching funds. These funds supported a federal staff of 30 people and approximately 1,000 state and local staff implementing nearly 700 coastal management projects and activities nation-wide. The work of the

partnership, a network of 34 federally approved or developing state and territorial programs and a national office, is categorized in Sustaining America's Coastal Communities, a jointly-developed strategic framework for the CZM program. The CZMA has the broadness of purpose and federal CZM funds have the flexibility of use to allow each state to address its unique array of priority coastal issues. For example, in 1999 the CZM partnership:

- *Sustained Coastal Communities by supporting community planning, waterfront revitalization, public access, dredging management, and coastal hazards preparation activities such as: development of a master plan for New Hampshire's Odiorne Point State Park and White Island; support of District Coastal Programs throughout Alaska; improving the Brownsville, Texas Fire Department's hurricane and flood emergency response capabilities; developing a management plan for the New York's South Shore Estuary Reserve; improving beach access and boat ramps in coastal Georgia; improving coastal access in 22 Michigan communities through projects like construction of the Harbor Island Trail in Grand Haven; ensured participation of coastal communities in federal brownfields initiative; and supported development of a marine interpretive center in Willapa, Washington*
- *Sustained Coastal Ecosystems by addressing habitat and nonpoint source pollution issues through activities such as: identifying and modeling the transport of nitrogen into Delaware's St. Jones River; implementing Maryland's Riparian Forest Buffer Plan; developing guidelines for the considerations of cumulative and secondary impacts in North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act permit decisions; conducting coastal sanitary surveys in Ohio's western Lake Erie; improving the database accounting for habitat changes caused by freshwater diversion in Louisiana; identifying significant subtidal habitats in Maine; developing a program for voluntary conservation easements in Mississippi; updating aerial photography of Pennsylvania's coastal wetlands; developing a certification program for wetland professionals in Wisconsin; and ensuring U.S. island participation in the protection and restoration of coral reefs*

- *Improved Government Efficiency by activities such as: developing a state-wide Aquaculture Siting and Management Plan for Rhode Island; coordinating Commonwealth-private sector restoration of Virginia oyster reefs; supporting ocean management policy development for the Florida Governor's Ocean Committee; supporting Hawaii's coastal issue outreach efforts; administering the coastal permit programs in American Samoa, California, Connecticut, and South Carolina, among others; resolved state-federal consistency issues in Ohio and California; developing Alaska's Bering Sea Management Plan; and support of Oregon's territorial sea planning and implementation*

For more information:

Joseph A. Uravitch, AICP, Chief
Chief, Coastal Programs Division
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
National Ocean Service
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD
301-713-3155
www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov

Read OCRM's CZM mission statement and see map of our coastal states and territories. Links to many CZM related websites, including Coastal Programs Division information, PDF files of various publications, and a link to the Coastal and Marine Management Program website. This page also contains links to all state CZM program homepages and information about specific state programs.

To obtain a list of CZM-related publications, contact:

Kristine Schlotzhauer
301-713-3113 x 203
kristine.schlotzhauer@noaa.gov